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**TELECOPY MESSAGE**

DATE: June 1, 2004 TRANSMISSION FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

PLEASE HAND DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TELECOPY MESSAGE TO:

NAME: Examiner Chi Q. Nguyen; Primary/Supervisory Examiner Carl D. Friedman  
COMPANY: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
FROM: Bob Lauson  
RE: Walburger, Modular Shelter System, 10/083,178

TOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 9

MESSAGE:

Attached please find several statements attesting to the importance of Mr. Walburger's invention and supporting our contentions of nonobviousness. Additionally attached is an addendum showing possible arrangements of the *self-contained, individual* modules.

We await hearing from you responsive to our fax dated May 27<sup>th</sup> including when a telephone interview with Examiner Friedman may be held.

cc Randy Walburger

PLEASE CALL (310) 546-8170 IF THIS TELECOPY MESSAGE IS INCOMPLETE OR ILLEGIBLE.

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# Housing California

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL AND AN END TO HOMELESSNESS

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**Amar Taylor**  
California Foundation for  
Independent Living Centers

August 11, 2003

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: **S.H.E.L.T.E.R.** (Supporting Homeless Existence Leading To Enabled Recovery)

Please accept this letter of support for Randy Walburger and his projects (S.H.E.L.T.E.R., Walburger Modules and the S.H.E.L.T.E.R. Drop-In Centers for the homeless).

Randy has presented his ideas, sketches, website information and literature at our annual conference the past two years. As we deal with California's homelessness issues on a daily basis, we have been intrigued with the concept of modular shelters for overnight use and daytime drop-in centers for the legions of homeless people who so desperately need some inclusion in basic human rights (such as being able to sleep without fear of arrest).

We have to accept the fact that funding available for homelessness issues will never come close to meeting the actual needs. We, therefore, need people like Randy to be able to research and test his projects—projects that could provide a much needed alternative to the relatively few shelter beds and transitional units currently available. Homelessness needs a community-based solution, and these module units are small (550 sq. ft), affordable, and can be easily disbursed within our communities.

Because his ideas have merit and promise, we urge Community Partners to offer project sponsorship to Mr. Walburger and S.H.E.L.T.E.R.

Sincerely,

  
**Susan Williams**

Director of Communications & Events

Housing California is a statewide coalition of non-profit developers, homeless service organizations and other housing advocates. Our 1,400 members develop affordable rental and owner-occupied housing and operate homeless shelters.

525 J Street, Suite 1400 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org)  
Administration/Conference: (916) 447-1867 • Policy: (916) 447-0531 • FAX (916) 447-0458

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# Housing California

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL AND AN END TO HOMELESSNESS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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California Chapter for  
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August 11, 2003

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: S.I.E.L.T.E.R. (Supporting Homeless Existence Leading To Enabled Recovery)

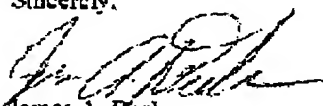
Please accept this letter of support for Randy Walburger and his projects (S.I.E.L.T.E.R., Walburger Modules and the S.I.E.L.T.E.R. Drop-In Centers for the homeless).

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Because his ideas have merit and promise, we urge Community Partners to offer project sponsorship to Mr. Walburger and S.I.E.L.T.E.R.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Becker  
Executive Director

Housing California is a statewide coalition of non-profit developers, homeless service organizations and other housing advocates. Over 1,400 members develop affordable rental and owner-occupied housing and operate homeless shelters.

926 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1400 + Sacramento, CA 95814 + [www.housing.ca.org](http://www.housing.ca.org)  
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Access Center

Campion Counseling

Daybreak Day Center  
& Shelter

Night Light Youth  
Outreach Services

Sojourner Services  
for Battered Women  
& Their Children

Turning Point  
Transitional Housing

September 25, 2003

Ms. Sharla Strong  
Community Partners  
606 South Olive Street, Suite 2400  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Re: S.H.E.L.T.E.R. Concept for Modular Units

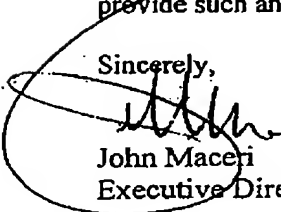
Dear Ms. Strong:

I have had the opportunity to review the materials prepared by Randy Walburger regarding his concept to develop and test the usefulness of S.H.E.L.T.E.R.'s modular units for homeless people. Mr. Walburger and I have also discussed in more detail the particulars around the design and implementation of the modules. His passion for the project is evident and he has been a consistent advocate for creating safe alternatives to living on the streets. As the director of an agency that struggles with the challenges of finding adequate shelter for hundreds of people a year, I can appreciate the difficulty he faces in trying to create additional places for people to sleep.

I believe his concept has merit and deserves to be piloted to test its effectiveness. The obvious challenges of finding adequate space to locate the modules, overcoming neighborhood resistance, and complying with whatever building and safety or fire codes would be imposed are issues facing all shelter providers. Those should not be the reasons to impede the development of this concept. If those obstacles can be overcome, and adequate resources to operate the program can be identified without negatively impacting the current bed inventory or services, this concept might provide a valuable addition to the current emergency shelter system. It is not the solution to homelessness. It is a humane and potentially cost effective way to provide temporary shelter in a safe environment for people who would otherwise be left to live on the streets exposed to the elements.

Without accessible year round shelter in all regions throughout Los Angeles county we will continue to see increasing numbers of homeless people living on the streets and in public areas. The current system doesn't have the capacity to house everyone who desires shelter. We must be creative in using our resources effectively to expand capacity and provide opportunities for people to move off the streets. S.H.E.L.T.E.R.'s modules may provide such an opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
John Maceji  
Executive Director

cc: Randy Walburger

606 South Olive Street, Suite 2400, Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Tel: (213) 413-1111 Fax: (213) 413-1112

11/25/2003 11:51

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PAGE 01



Founded 1865

## The Salvation Army

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P.O. Box 7065  
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Executive Director

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Fax 310/581-9314

WILLIAM BOOTH  
Founder

JOHN GOWANS  
General

DAVID EDWARDS  
Territorial Commander

ALFRED R. VAN CLEEF  
Divisional Commander

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: S.H.E.L.T.E.R. Concept for modular units

After having reviewed the materials pertaining to Randy Walburger's modular shelter units, and after having listened to his presentation of the details and specifics for the application of this innovative idea, I believe this concept is worthy of further consideration and pilot testing.

In this era of decreased funding for services and increased demand for services, it is necessary for all of us to be open-minded and willing to explore alternative, forward-thinking ideas that supplement the existing system of shelter for the homeless.

This concept will not solve homelessness, nor do I think it should attempt to replace the existing emergency shelter system. It may, however, prove to be a valuable component of our current continuum of care model.

There would be challenges in establishing this modular concept (space, funding, security, public resistance, building codes), but these challenges should not overshadow the challenges our community faces in addressing the fact that people are left to sleep on our streets, in our parks, exposed to the elements.

I am willing to provide some oversight and objective evaluation of a pilot testing project if the opportunity presented itself. To condone or to reject this concept prior to objective testing of its effectiveness, practicality, and humanity seems to suggest a level of hypocrisy that is unaffordable in our current crisis of homelessness.

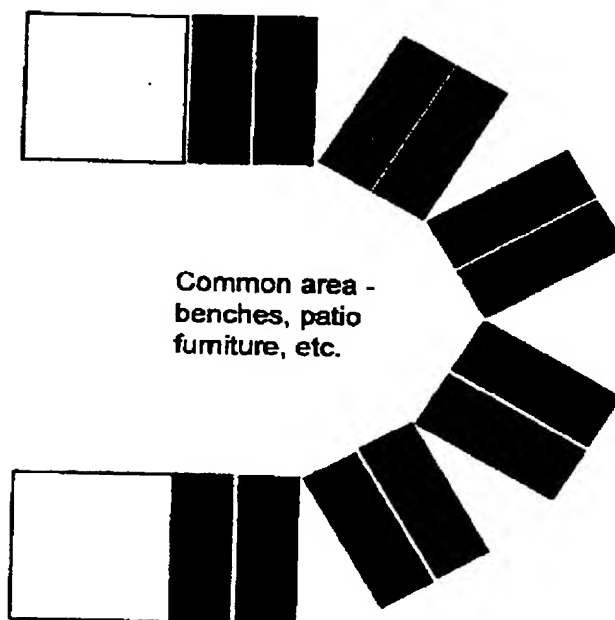
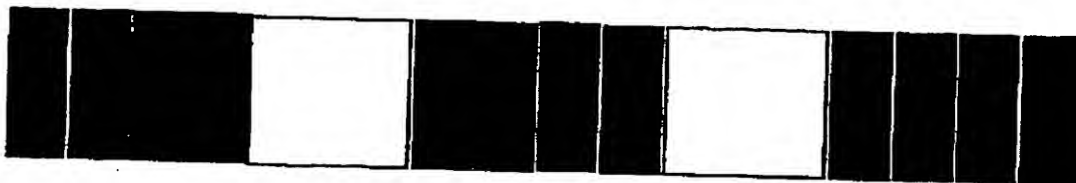
Faithfully yours,

  
Theodore M. Dues  
Executive Director

## ADDENDUM

Because Walburger Modular Shelters are truly self-contained individual modules, they can easily be arranged in any configuration to take advantage of space and terrain.

### Typical layouts:



Key	
■	- Sleeping module (2 high) [ 3.5' x 9.5' ]
□	- Sanitary Module [9.5' x 9.5']

### NOTES:

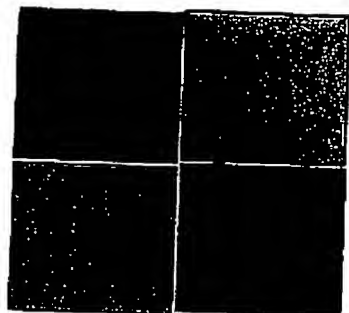
1. Optional 'feet' stabilize modules on rough ground, allow for drainage underneath.
2. Sleeping modules are normally faced alternately front/rear for privacy, but their flexible design allows them to be faced all front, or even front/side or front/rear/side. Side stacking permits 3-high stacking, allowing 6 guests in a 9.5' x 9.5' square area (step ladder or ramp required to enter/exit top tier.)

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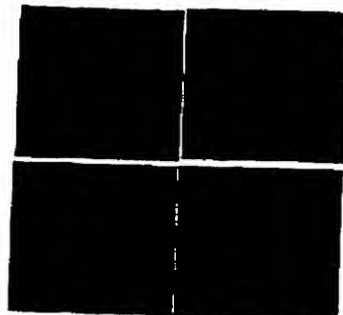
Randy Walburger

310 828 9328

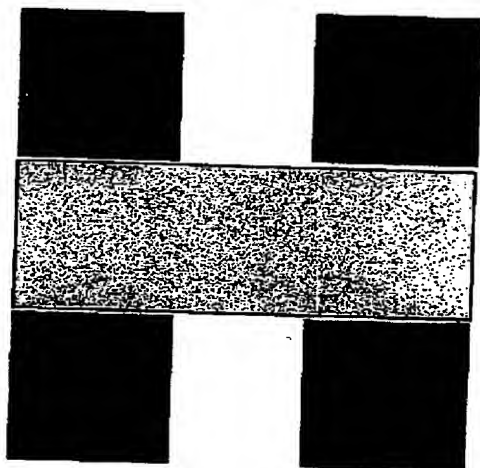
p. 4



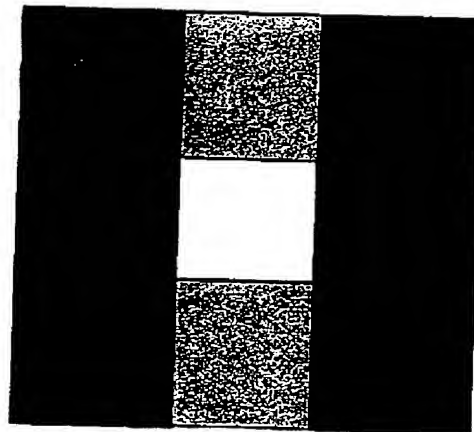
**FRONT VIEW - Standard design, alternating front and rear facings**



**FRONT VIEW - Special design with all modules opening to front**



**FRONT VIEW of optional three-tier application. Interlock design allows custom stacking, widening base, increasing stability, allowing third tier to conserve space. Ladder or ramp(not shown) required to enter/exit top tier.**



**TOP VIEW of three-tier application. Note that first and third tier are aligned for stability.**

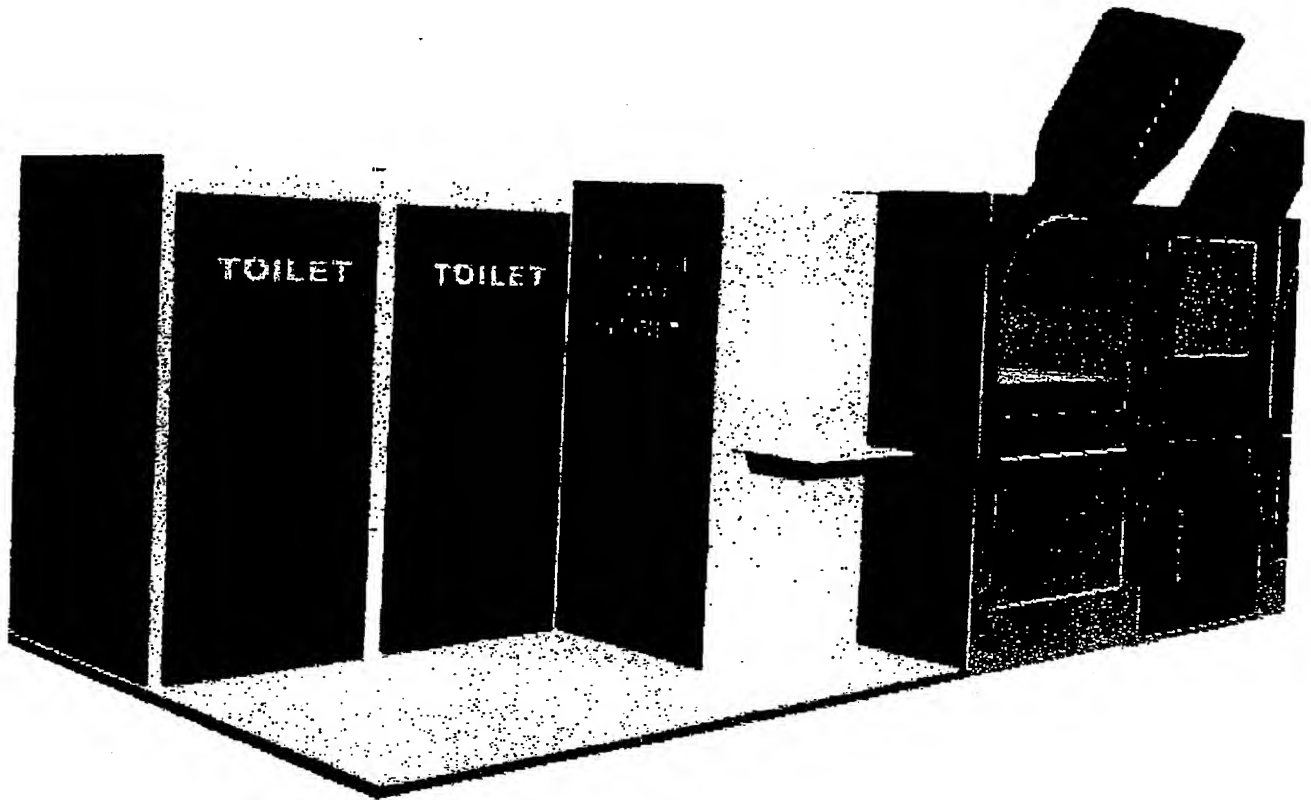


May 31 04 12:57p

Randy Walburger

310 828 9328

p.3



P.9

310-546-8171  
310 828 9328

Robert J. Lauson  
Randy Walburger

Jun 01 04 11:53a  
May 31 04 12:57p

